

Lobbyist Disclosure Enhancement Act Section-by-Section

Section 1. Short Title, “Lobbyist Disclosure Enhancement Act”

Section 2. Requires the Attorney General to establish the Lobbying Disclosure Act Enforcement Task Force, responsible for:

- Investigating and prosecuting cases referred to the Task Force;
- Collecting and disseminating information on the enforcement of the LDA;
- Auditing annually a random sampling of lobbying registration reports to ensure compliance;
- Establishing, publicizing and operation a hotline for reporting of noncompliance with lobbyist disclosure requirements;
- Proposing legislation to Congress on improving compliance and enforcement of the LDA;

Allows the names of firms and individual lobbyists that violate the LDA to be published, unlike current law which forbids the disclosure of specific names.

Section 3. Requires all paid lobbyists to register by closing the “20 percent loophole” which currently allows individuals who spend less than 20 percent of their time lobbying to avoid registration. Retains the other two criteria for registration: (1) Making two or more lobbying contacts and; (2) Receiving payment of a certain amount to lobby.

Section 4. Requires lobbyists to register within 5 days, rather than 45 days, of making a lobbying contact or being hired to make a lobbyist contact.

Section 5. Requires lobbyists to report each lobbying contact with each covered executive and legislative branch official. If the lobbyist makes a lobbying contact with staff, they will list the office with which they met, not the staff member’s name.

Section 6. Requires lobbyists to report political contributions quarterly rather than semi-annually, in order to better track contributions from lobbyists.

Section 7. Effective Date – The provisions will take effect within 90 days of the passage of the Act.